

The Important of Being Earnest

But now let's talk about the play,
(Ma ora parliamo dell'opera teatrale)

"The Importance of Being Earnest " it was a comedy whose themes were banality with which he treats very serious instructions and the satire of Victorian conformism .

These two things make the work famous

The work is divided in three parts:

Act I

The first act is settled in Algernon apartment. When Jack, known in London as Earnest, arrives Algernon informs him that his aunt Augusta and her daughter Miss Gwendolen Fairfax are going to join them for a tea. While there are waiting for the two women to arrive Jack explains to Algernon that his real name is Jack and that he uses the name of Earnest just in London while when he's home he uses Earnest as a fake brother in order to escape the boredom of the countryside.

When Augusta and Gwendolen arrive

Algernon takes his aunt in the other room to allow Jack, who is in love with Gwendolen, to propose. When he proposes Gwendolen accepts and tells him that she is in love with him too because she loves his name, a name so

strong and reassuring like Earnest.

Act II

The second act takes place at Jack's house where Miss Prism is teaching German grammar to Cecily, Jack's ward. When Dr. Chasuble arrives and invites Miss Prism for a walk. While her teacher and the doctor are off walking, Cecily meets Algernon who, knowing about Jack's lie, is pretending to be his guardian's brother, Earnest. While Algernon, who wants to marry Cecily, is trying to conquer the girl's love Jack makes his way into the house dressed in mourning holding the ashes of his fake and now dead brother. When he meets Miss Algernon, whose name now is Earnest all his plans break into pieces.

Meanwhile Gwendolen arrives to Jack's house and meets Cecily. The two women discover the lies Algernon and Jack have been telling them and start ignoring the two men.

Act III

The third and last act takes place in Jack's house where he and Algernon are trying to win the women's sympathy back. When they finally succeed by telling their women they are going to be christened and take the name of Earnest. At the

same time Lady Bracknell walks into the room and tells them they could never be married because Jack's parents are unknown since he was found in a bag at

the station and Cecily is not a good enough match for Algernon. While leaving the house Lady Bracknell recognizes Miss

Prism and tells the story of how the woman had left Lord Bracknell's house with the son of the deceased Mrs.

Moncrieff, Algernon's elder brother, and she had left the baby in a bag at the station. When Jack produces the bag it is proven to all of them that he is that baby and that now he is a perfect match to marry Gwendolen. As for Algernon and Cecily, when Aunt Augusta finds out about the dowry of a hundred and thirty thousand pounds she gives her consent to the marriage.